

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

MONTHLY LETTER OF THE BUREAU OF ENTOMOLOGY
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Number 81

January, 1921

FRUIT INSECT INVESTIGATIONS

A. L. Quaintance, Entomologist in Charge.

Mr. C. L. Marlatt's work as chairman of the Federal Horticultural Board has necessitated his relinquishment of the direction of Tropical and Subtropical Fruit Insect Investigations, and Dr. Howard has combined this branch with the office of Deciduous Fruit Insect Investigations. Mr. Marlatt will, however, maintain active cooperation in certain projects, as Mediterranean fruit fly investigations, the work under way in the Canal Zone, systematic work with Coccidae, and investigations of insects injurious to greenhouses, on account of the intimate relation of this work with certain quarantine and other work of the Board.

C. F. Doucette, a graduate of the Massachusetts Agricultural College, has been appointed scientific assistant and will be assigned to duty at Doylestown, Pa., to undertake an investigation of the strawberry rootworm and other greenhouse insects.

C. H. Alden, who has been assisting in connection with apple insect investigations at Wallingford, Conn., is spending several weeks in Washington, preparing reports on the subject of his field investigations.

TRUCK-CROP INSECT INVESTIGATIONS

F. H. Chittenden, Entomologist in Charge

During November and December, 1920, questionnaires relative to the possible occurrence of the Mexican bean beetle in States in the South other than Alabama were sent out to county agents of southern States as well as to entomologists, bean growers, and others who might furnish information in regard to the distribution of this pest. In the replies received, several new localities were reported in the States of Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas, where the species was not hitherto known to occur. Four reports of occurrences in Louisiana and one in Arkansas were also received. Those in Louisiana have not all been investigated but in one case, at least, the beetle concerned was merely the spotted ladybird (Megilla maculata), one of our most beneficial species. In another case the squash ladybird (Epilachna borealis) was the insect under observation, and this applied also to a reported occurrence of the bean beetle in one of the western States. During January C. H. Popenoe investigated the alleged occurrence of this species at Pine Bluff, Ark., with the result that the report was found to be without foundation. The results of replies to these questionnaires thus far show that in the southern States the insect is not known to occur outside of the area in Alabama, consisting of 12 counties, which has already been mapped.

Two specimens of what we know as the potato stalk weevil (Trochobaris trinitata Say) were taken by L. G. Gentner, scientific assistant, at Madison, Wis., May 25, 1920, which appears to be the first record of the insect in that State. They were found by sweeping in the vicinity of solanaceous weeds and probably the species does not attack potato there.

In the work of eradication of the sweet-potato weevil in the Charlton-Baker district of Georgia and Florida, B.L. Boyden writes that the prevalence of hog cholera on some of the farms in the Macclenny, Fla., region has rendered it impossible to "hog off" many of the fields. Because of this, many sweet potatoes are left in the ground and the task of cleaning the fields is made much more difficult.

J.E. Graf was in Washington during the holidays for consultation in regard to the sweet-potato weevil and Mexican bean beetle projects and afterwards attended the meeting of the Association of Economic Entomologists, where he presented a paper on the methods of eradication of the weevil.

C.H. Popenoe attended the scientific meetings held in Chicago during the holidays, after which he started on a tour of the southern States, investigating the Mexican bean beetle and sweet-potato weevil situation in that region.

CEREAL AND FORAGE INSECT INVESTIGATIONS

W.R. Walton, Entomologist in Charge

A conference of Hessian fly men of the branch of Cereal and Forage Insect Investigations was held at the entomological field station at West Lafayette, Ind., on January 3. The persons attending this meeting were: W.R. Walton, W.H. Larrimer, A.F. Satterthwait, J.R. Horton, C.K. Fisher, R. A. Blanchard, H.R. Painter, G. B. Pearson, W. B. Cartwright, G.G. Ainslie, P.R. Myers, and C.C. Hill. It was the unanimous opinion of those present that the conference resulted in great benefit to the Hessian fly investigations, and the hope was expressed that similar meetings might be held from year to year.

E.V. Walter, of the Tempe, Ariz., laboratory, visited Washington during the latter part of January for consultation and taxonomic work at the Museum.

SOUTHERN FIELD CROP INSECT INVESTIGATIONS

J. L. Webb, Entomologist Acting in Charge

M. T. Young and Robert L. Saul of the boll weevil laboratory force have been transferred temporarily to the Federal Horticultural Board.

George N. Wolcott, a collaborator of this Bureau, has resigned as entomologist of the Dominican Experiment Station and has been appointed entomologist of the Insular Station, Rio Piedras, Porto Rico, to occupy the position made vacant by the resignation of Mr. Smythe.

John C. Hamlin, entomologist and biologist of the Prickly Pear Board, Commonwealth of Australia, who is also a collaborator of this Bureau, is temporarily located in Miami, Fla., studying the cactus insects of that region.

LIBRARY

Mabel Colcord, Librarian

New Books

- Collins, S. H. Chemical fertilizers and parasitocides. 273 p., front., map, illus. London, 1920. (Industrial chemistry... ed. by Samuel Rideal.)
General bibliography, p. 257-258.
- Findlay, Hugh, editor. The handbook for practical farmers... 558 p., illus. N.Y. and London, D. Appleton and Company, 1920.
Pests on the farm and their control, p. 490-499.
- Houlbert, C. Les insectes, anatomie et physiologie generale... Ed. 3 rev. 374 p., illus. Paris, Librairie Octave Doin, Gaston Doin editeur, 1920. (Encyclopedie scientifique publiee sous la direction du Dr. Toulouse.)
Index bibliographique, p. 343-352.
- McGillivray, A. D. The Coccidae... 502 p. Urbana, Illinois, The Scarab Company, 1921.
- Percival, John, Agricultural bacteriology; theoretical and practical, 2d ed. 308 p., illus. London, 1920.
- Sloane, T. O'Connor. Liquid air and the liquefaction of gases... Ed. 3 rev. and enl. 394 p., illus. London, Constable and Company, limited, 1920.
- Wolbach, S. Burt. Studies on Rocky Mountain spotted fever. 197 p., 20 plates. Reprinted from the Journal of Medical Research, v. 41, no. 1, Nov., 1919. Boston, July, 1919.
Bibliography, p. 187-193.
- Zoological Record. v. 55... 1918. Insects: 246 p., by D. Sharp. London, Printed for the (Zoological) Society (of London), 1920.
-

FOREST INSECT INVESTIGATIONS

A. D. Hopkins, Forest Entomologist in Charge

Dr. F. C. Craighead has tendered his resignation to accept a position with the Department of Agriculture, Dominion of Canada.

Dr. T. E. Snyder left Washington on January 16 for New York where a consultation with engineers of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company

was held on January 17, in regard to control experiments to be conducted against the cable borer (*Scobicia declivis* Lec.). A manuscript is being prepared by members of the branch of forest entomology on this insect and the results of experiments to date.

the
January 18 to 24 was spent by Dr. Snyder at the Museum of Comparative Zoology doing systematic work on exotic termites, particularly new Central American species. Some time was spent with Dr. C. B. Thompson at Wellesley College working on the biology and morphology of Nearctic termites.

STORED-PRODUCT INSECT INVESTIGATIONS

E. A. Back, Entomologist in Charge

At the request of the Navy Department arrangements have been perfected for the periodic inspection of food commodities stored at the Navy Supply Base, South Brooklyn, N.Y. Dr. E. A. Back and Perez Simmons recently spent two days in Brooklyn going over the situation. The accidental infestation of supplies of brown sugar by *Cadelle* larvae and infestation of fur-lined boots, coats, and other clothing by clothes moths were the interesting features of the inspection. In the clothing department there was located a badly damaged lot of submarine boots and aviator helmets and chin protectors from which adult clothes moths were spreading, infesting the entire establishment.

J. C. Bridgwell, who left Washington early in December, has been studying Algaroba bean insects at Houston, Victoria, and Brownsville, Tex. He leaves soon for Tucson, Ariz., stopping en route at El Paso, Tex., and Las Cruces, N. Mex.

During the first two weeks in January, Dr. Back made a trip to the Southwest at the suggestion of the Bureau of Markets. He was accompanied by Mr. J. M. Chilton, in charge of Grain Supervision of Kansas City, and by Professor C. H. Bailey of the University of Minnesota, temporarily conducting research work in grain respiration at the University of Maryland, under the direction of the Bureau of Markets. St. Louis, Kansas City, Oklahoma City, Fort Worth, San Antonio, Galveston and New Orleans were visited.

R. T. Cotton has submitted for consideration a paper "*Apilastomorphe vandinei* Tucker, an important parasite of *Sitophilus oryzae*." The paper contains original data on the life cycle of this important parasite. The detailed information being secured by Mr. Cotton concerning the rice weevil and its parasites has been of great value in correspondence relating to insect litigation. In the December 15 issue of the Journal of Agricultural Research there appeared three papers by Mr. Cotton.

An interesting report containing new information concerning bruchid pests in the Hawaiian Islands has been received from H. F. Willard of the Federal Horticultural Board located at Honolulu.